Epilepsy Canada Names CTV's Bill Hutchison as 2011's Honorary Spokesperson

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TORONTO, ON (RPRN) 02/12/11 — Epilepsy Canada is pleased to announce CTV's Bill Hutchison as Honorary Spokesperson for 2011. In preparation for what will be an aggressive year of marketing and fundraising, Epilepsy Canada approached Bill to offer him this voluntary position. Bill responded that he would be more than happy to take on the role and help in any way possible.

"We're very excited to have someone of Bill's stature in the community support our organization," says Gary Collins, Board Member for Epilepsy Canada. "Bill's communication skills will help us reach out to key Canadian sponsors to help them understand the pressing research needs of both our organization and those afflicted by this disorder."

As one of the premiere television personalities in Toronto and Canada, Bill will bring a wealth of new opportunities and resources that will be invaluable to Epilepsy Canada throughout the year and for Epilepsy Month in March.

Part of Bill's passion to foster education and research for epilepsy comes from the influence the disorder has had on his personal life. Growing up with a close family member affected by the disorder, Bill knows firsthand the importance of educating the public as well as raising money to help find a cure.

Epilepsy is a young person's disorder which makes it that much more important to develop new treatments and medications. Each year, an average of 15,500 Canadians learn that they have epilepsy. Of that group, 44% are diagnosed before the age of 5 with 85% before the age of 18. At the same time, only 1.3% of newly diagnosed patients are over the age of 60.

With almost all new diagnoses coming from children under the age of 18 and so much still unknown about the disorder, it is easy to understand why Epilepsy research and awareness remain at the forefront of Canadians' minds. Bill's presence on the Epilepsy Canada team will certainly help raise that awareness and get more Canadians committed to the effort.

Bill Hutchison, News Anchor, CTV News at 11:30 p.m.

Bill Hutchison is the Anchor of **CTV News** at 11:30 p.m. Bill is also well known for his popular segment **Webmania**, which highlights the latest advancements in computers, the Internet and

digital technology. **Webmania** airs on **CTV News Toronto** and other CTV affiliates across the country.

Bill began his broadcasting career in 1979. His first job was in radio, hosting the CBC's afternoon drive show in Yellowknife.

Over the years Bill has worked for CBC national radio news in Toronto, CKND in Winnipeg, ITV in Edmonton, and CFCN in Calgary. In 1988 he joined **CTV Toronto** as a general assignment reporter and within a few months he started anchoring the weekend editions of World Beat and Night Beat News.

During his career he has interviewed six Canadian Prime Ministers, former US Secretaries of State George Schultz and Henry Kissinger, and covered visits to Canada by Pope John Paul II, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Phillip, and the Aga Khan. He has also interviewed such Hollywood celebrities as Demi Moore, Kevin Costner, Danny Devito, and Billy Crystal.

A native of Toronto, Bill studied journalism at Ryerson Polytechnic Institute.

About Epilepsy Canada

Epilepsy Canada is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for persons affected by epilepsy through promotion and support of research and facilitation of education and awareness initiatives that build understanding and acceptance of epilepsy.

Epilepsy Canada is governed by a national board with national representation. Partner associations of Epilepsy Canada provide direct services to those with epilepsy and their families.

Founded in 1966, Epilepsy Canada depends entirely upon public and corporate support for the continuing development of its research and education programs.

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